

Care. Peterson.

THE NATURAL SYSTEM
OF VERTICAL WRITING.

By A.F.Newlands & R.K.Row



BOOK III

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Position and Penholding.

RIGHT HABITS of position and penholding condition the writing movement, and the movement determines the character and possible facility of the writing. But position must, to some extent, depend upon the slant of the desk and its size relative to the writer, and the method of penholding will be governed somewhat by the same conditions and by the shape of hand and arm of the individual pupil. For these reasons only a general position of body, arm, and hand is recommended, and it is left to the common sense of the teacher to determine how close the individual shall be held to the gene-



FIG. 1.

ral ideal. If a pupil shows a decided preference for a slightly different way, and writes well with apparent

ease, it will be best to train him in his way.

Figure 1 shows the approved posi-



FIG. 2.

tion at a desk of the proper slant and height. It should be understood that the writer may incline forward a little, and may write higher or lower upon the page.

Figure 2 gives the position recommended at the ordinary nearly flat desk.

Observe that in both illustrations the elbows are *well off* the desk, and hang comfortably near the side.

Figures 3 and 4 show more clearly the hand position and method of penholding recommended as the general ideal result of proper training. The pen is held well away from the point, to raise the hand and prevent its pressing upon the paper,

Birds are farmers' friends.¹

Birds are farmers friends

²Clouds ride upon the wind.

clouds ride upon the wind

Clouds ride upon the wind.

Clouds ride up on the wind.

Clouds ride upon the wind.

Do rivers water the land?

Eat your meals very slowly.

Eat your meals very slowly

Ferns are seedless plants.

Ferns are seedless plants

James A. Garfield died, 1881.

James A. Garfield died 1881.

James A. Garfield died 1881.

James A. Garfield died 1881

How many edges has a cube?

Ivory, the tusks of elephants.

Ivory, the tusks of elephants.

Ivory, the tusks of elephants.

Ivory, the tusks of elephants

Jupiter, our largest planet.

Jupiter, our largest planet

¹⁰ Kine, an old name for cows.

Kine an Old name for cows

Kine, an Old name for cows

Kine, an Old name for cows

Kine, an Old name for cows

Kine an old name for cows

11

Linen is made of flax. b8

Linen is made of flax b8

¹² Most plants like sunshine.

Most plants like Sunshine

most plants like Sunshine

most plantl like Sunshine

most plants like Sunshine

most plants like sunshine

most plants like sunshine

most plants like sunshine

most plantl like Sunshine

most plantl like Sunshine

most plants like Sunshine

Most plantl like Sunshine

most plants like Sunshine

Name some wingless birds.¹³

Name some wingless birds.

Name some wingless birds

*Odd numbers, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11.

Odd numbers, 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11

Petals, inner flower leaves.

Petals, inner flower leaves

Quire, 24 sheets of paper.

Snails carry their houses.

¹⁸ Tea, the leaves of a shrub. 10

Tea, the leaves of a shrub. 11

Tea, the leaves of a shrub. 10

Tea, the leaves of a shrub. 10

Tea, the leaves of a shrub. 10

Tea the leaves of a shrub 10

Units are what part of tens?

Volcanoes throw out lava.

Volcanoes throw out lava.

Volcanoes throw out lava

Why are many fruits round?

²² X is the Roman sign for ten.

Yule, an old name for Xmas.

Yule, an old name for Xmas.

Yule, an old name for Xmas.

Yule, an old name for Xmas

Yule, an old name for Xmas

Yule an old name for Xmas

Zenith, the point above us.

Zenith the point above us.

Zenith the point above us

Zentih the point above us

Zentih the point above us

and to overcome the natural tendency, or habit, of the child to cramp the fingers and grip the pen. The hand is slightly steadied upon the side of the last section of the fourth finger.

To aid in developing power and skill to write with the hand position

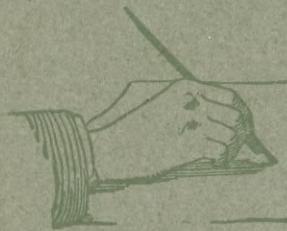


FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.

Correct position of hand.

here shown, and, ultimately, with a view to freedom and speed, to form a habit of doing so, two special methods of practice are strongly recommended.

First, with a long hold of the pen and without allowing any part of the hand or arm to rest, write for a minute or two, upon practice paper, very large letter forms. Figures 5 and 6.



FIG. 5.

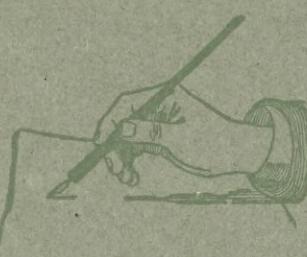


FIG. 6.

Good position for early practice.

Second, supporting the forearm lightly upon the edge of the desk, but keeping the hand from touching the paper, write at first large and then smaller.

It is important that these methods

of practice should not only be employed from the very first to prevent the forming of wrong habits, but they should be used in all grades until right habits are formed. The second method may be used very extensively. Pupils may be encouraged to do their ordinary writing in that way, keeping in mind that the object is freedom and hand control, in order that we may combine rapidity with legibility.

For fuller discussion see Teachers' Manual.

Omission of Inconvenient Joining Lines.

Following the usage of most rapid writers, in the copies in these books inconvenient joining lines between letters have been omitted: These skips imply, not *stoppages* of motion, but *accelerations*, the pen leaping, by the easiest route, to the beginning of the next letter. This is found to be especially true before a, c, d, g, o, and q, and after p, s, and z. The only precaution necessary is to see that the letters are closely grouped in words and the words well spaced in the sentences.

To the Pupil.

When you have learned to write well, practice writing your best gradually faster and faster. When in the fifth or sixth grade, you should be able to write a sentence plainly and neatly at the rate of from 90 to 150 letters per minute.

CHART OF THE NATURAL SYSTEM OF VERTICAL WRITING

STANDARD FORMS.

CAPITALS.

A B C D E F G H J
J K L M N O P Q R
S T U V W X Y Z

SMALL LETTERS.

a b c d e f f g h i j
k l m n o p q r t
s d t u v w x y z

FIGURES AND SIGNS

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